

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00403 141739Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS CAIRO 0403

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO COMMERCIAL PRESENCE FAIR: CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

REF: BEIRUT 15034, USDOC 18607; MERRICK/HAMMOND TELCON OF JAN 9

1. EMBASSY HAS AGAIN DISCUSSED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROCEDURES WITH GOE AUTHORITIES. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT PROCEDURES ARE WELL ESTABLISHED FOR CUSTOMS HANDLING OF MATERIALS ENTERING EGYPT UNDER SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE WILL NOT ENCOUNTER CERTAIN DELAYS.

2. THIS PROBLEM OF EXPEDITING CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WAS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL WITH VIGNEAULT AND RTDO DURING VISITS TO CAIRO. VIGNEAULT MET WITH A NUMBER OF CUSTOMS EXPEDITERS TO SELECT EXPEDITER FOR US EXHIBITION.

3. CONCERNING POSSIBLE CUSTOMS PROBLEMS, HAMMOND AND MERRICK AGREED THAT, GIVEN ASSURANCES AND ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, CUSTOMS PROBLEMS COULD BEST BE HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AFTER HAMMOND ARRIVES. HAMMOND INDICATED THAT HE FELT THAT HE HAD SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON CUSTOMS MATTERS THAT MIGHT BE RAISED BY BEIRUT REGIONAL OFFICES OF EXHIBITION PARTICIPANTS.

4. CONCERNING EXHIBITED ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT INTENDED FOR SALE, EXHIBITOR HAS SIX MONTHS TO REMOVE SUCH ITEMS FROM EGYPT.

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THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER SIX MONTHS EXTENSION.

5. EXHIBIT DIRECTOR MADKOUR HAS INDICATED THAT ABOUT 95 PERCENT OF ALL EQUIPMENT BROUGHT TO EXHIBITION FOR SALE HAS BEEN SOLD. WEST GERMANY, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN SELLING ITEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXHIBITED IN RECENT YEARS AT THIS EXHIBITION. SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY ALLOCATIONS AND PROCEDURES ARE APPLICABLE FOR GOODS EXHIBITED AT THIS FAIR. THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE ALLOCATION FOR PURCHASE OF ITEMS DISPLAYED AT FAIR IS GOING TO BE DOUBLED THIS YEAR IN ANTICIPATION OF GREATER DEMAND. PUBLIC SECTOR COMPANIES HAVE FIRST PRIORITY IN PURCHASING EXHIBITED ITEMS WHICH ARE FOR SALE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS GREATLY INCREASED ITS ACCESS TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE THROUGH PROCEDURES RELATING TO PARALLEL MARKET.
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